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SECURITY INFORMATION

26 January 1953

SSS-53-40

TO: Chief, CEBR/DD

From: []

Subject: SCHARRENBROICH, Karl

Reference: Your request CG-4486, Secret.

1. Available information on Subject is best summarized by the following report prepared by the U.S. Legation at Bern:

"Durum A.G. of Utoquai 37, Zurich, is owned by Karl SCHARRENBROICH, a businessman currently acting as a procurement agent for the Romanian Government in West Europe.

"Little is known about the activities of Durum A.G., but its owner has a considerable dossier. SCHARRENBROICH was born in Romania in 1906. He spent his youth in Germany and is reported to have been active in the German Communist youth movement before 1933. With the coming to power of the Nazis, SCHARRENBROICH returned to Romania. When the Germans occupied Romania in 1941, SCHARRENBROICH offered his services and became director of the Hansa Romana, a German-operated export-import firm which is said to have served as a cloak for Abwehr and SD Operations. In this capacity he moved in high German circles in Bucharest.

"Upon the advent of the Russians in 1944, however, SCHARRENBROICH succeeded in impressing the Soviet authorities with his old Communist record and escaped arrest. It is alleged that he rejoined the Communist Party at this time.

"In 1946 SCHARRENBROICH came to Switzerland bearing Romanian Service Passport 023761, issued in May 1946. In Switzerland he was in close touch with VITIANU, the Commercial Agent of the Romanian Legation in Bern who was later convicted by the Swiss on charges of commercial espionage and criminal extortion.

"In 1946 SCHARRENBROICH received a Swiss titre de voyage. In 1949 he was active in the Transintra firm of Sarnen and negotiated the sale of German machinery and oil equipment to Romania. At the same time he operated the Pilgrim A.G. and Durum A.G. firms in Zurich. In 1950 it was reported that SCHARRENBROICH had obtained a West German passport, operated the Frankfurt firm of Hansa Eisenhandel A.G. and served as world wide representative of Ruhrchemie, Duisburg." (HICOG Bonn #2185, 6 Feb 52, Secret - relay from Bern.)

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Subject: SCHARRENBROICH, Karl - Continued.

2. Ani LEASCA, described in your request as Subject's mistress, was said to have applied for a U.S. visa in May 1948. Report continued: "...Efforts in her behalf have been put forward by New York socialite Jack HEATON as well as by a U.S. Senator, identity unknown. She is well known as a prostitute and has been mistress of the following at one time or another: Zaharia CUCKERMAN; Eugen BOTEZ; de la PORTA, son of former Italian Commercial Attache; and numerous German officers. She was the informant of the Hungarian Minister in Romania, Lasso NAGHY de GALANTHA ...Also associated with German agent Karl SCHARRENBREUCH, who is now believed in the employ of Soviet Intelligence and that Ani LEASCA still is in contact with him. In the summer of 1946, she was recruiting women, chiefly those who frequented American circles, for so-called "Social Groups" within the Romanian SSI. It is stated that LEASCA is illegitimate daughter of one Elena N. I. IZOR and that she was adopted by Matei and Elizabeta LEASCA in 1922." (SD BERN #134, 27 May 48, Secret.)

3. An April 1949 source reported that a Mrs. MILONE, maiden name TRANCU IASI and formerly SCHARRENBREUCH's wife, frequently left her home in Rome and went to Switzerland to visit the latter. He was said to be living in a Lausanne hotel and was shadowed by the Swiss political police. Mrs. MILONE, according to the report was also often visited by the Romanian Minister to Rome, Nicolae CIORDIU, described as a confirmed Communist. (ODDI EC Political Report J-771, ID-586396, 2 Jun 49, Confidential, Eval: P-3)

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